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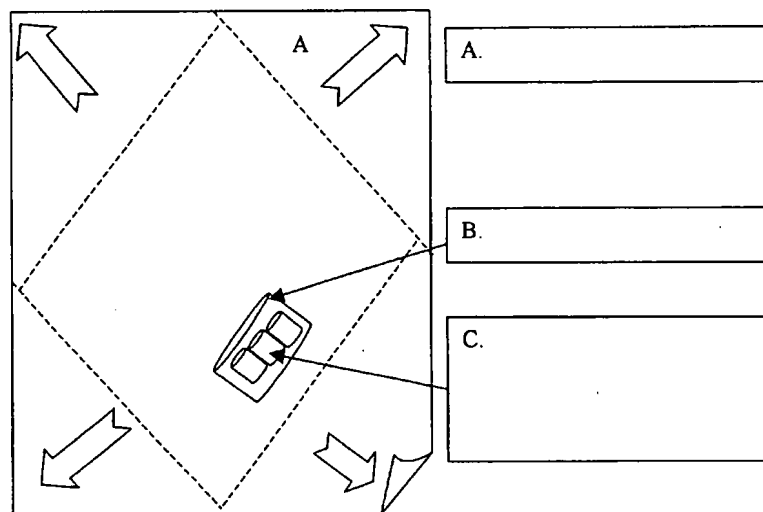
(56) Documents Cited:
WO 1997/045333 A1 DE 020010626 U1
US 4886150 A US 4702378 A
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(58) Field of Search:
UK CL (Edition W) A4G, A5R
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(54) Abstract Title: **Baby travelpack**

(57) A pack of baby care items comprising at least a baby changing mat A and a disposable nappy B, wherein the changing mat is A folded to form a container for holding the other item(s) C and may be unfolded for use. Preferably the pack may be unfolded with one hand. The nappy B may be protected from soiling and damage prior to use by the outer packaging. The nappy B and other items C may be placed off-centre on the changing mat A and secured in place leaving a clean space to place the baby down. The changing mat may A be re-folded after use to form a container to dispose of the items. The travelpack may be folded and rolled, and the additional items C may include wipes, cream or disposal bags.

Figure 3 Position and contents of the Travelpack



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DRAWINGS

Figure 1. The packed Travelpack

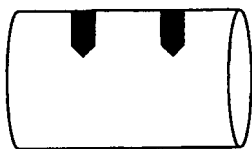


Figure 2. Unfolding the Travelpack

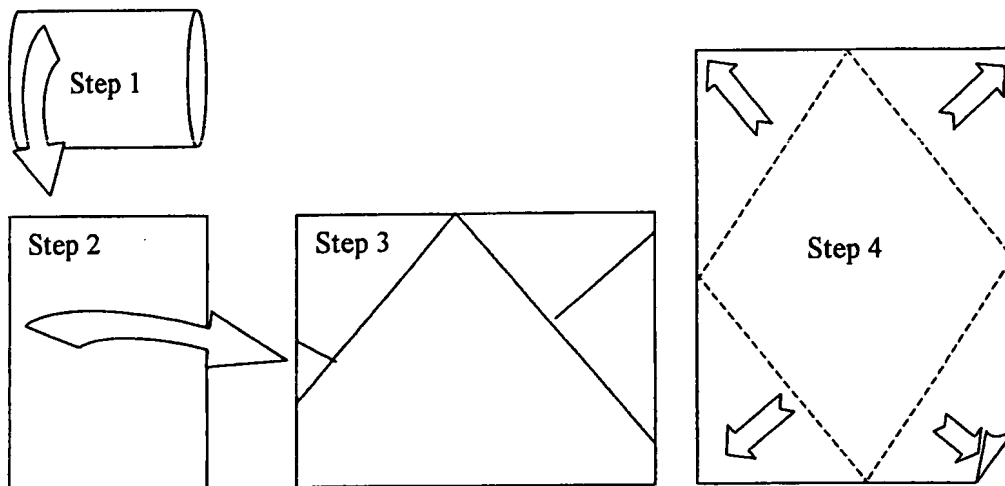
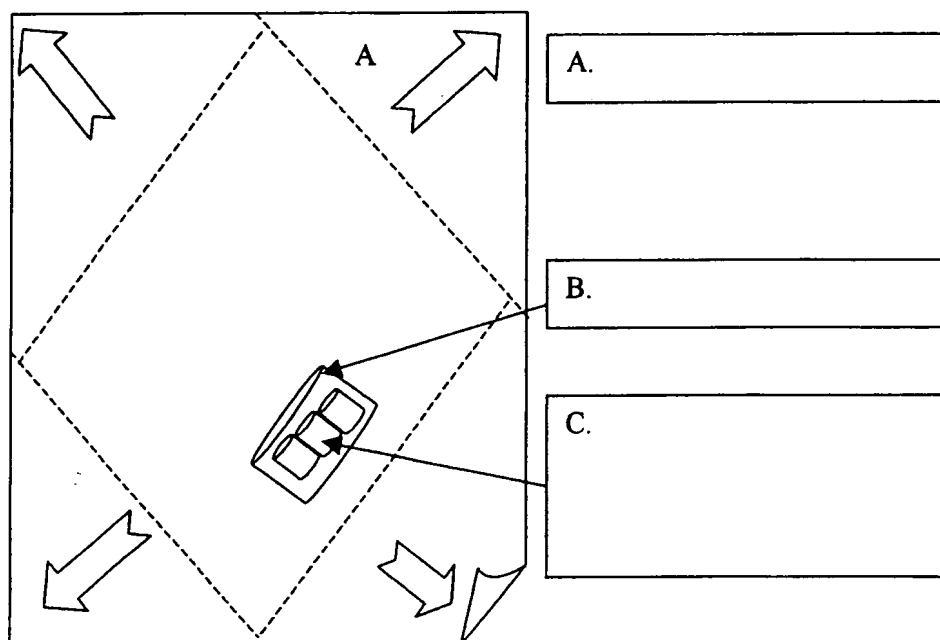
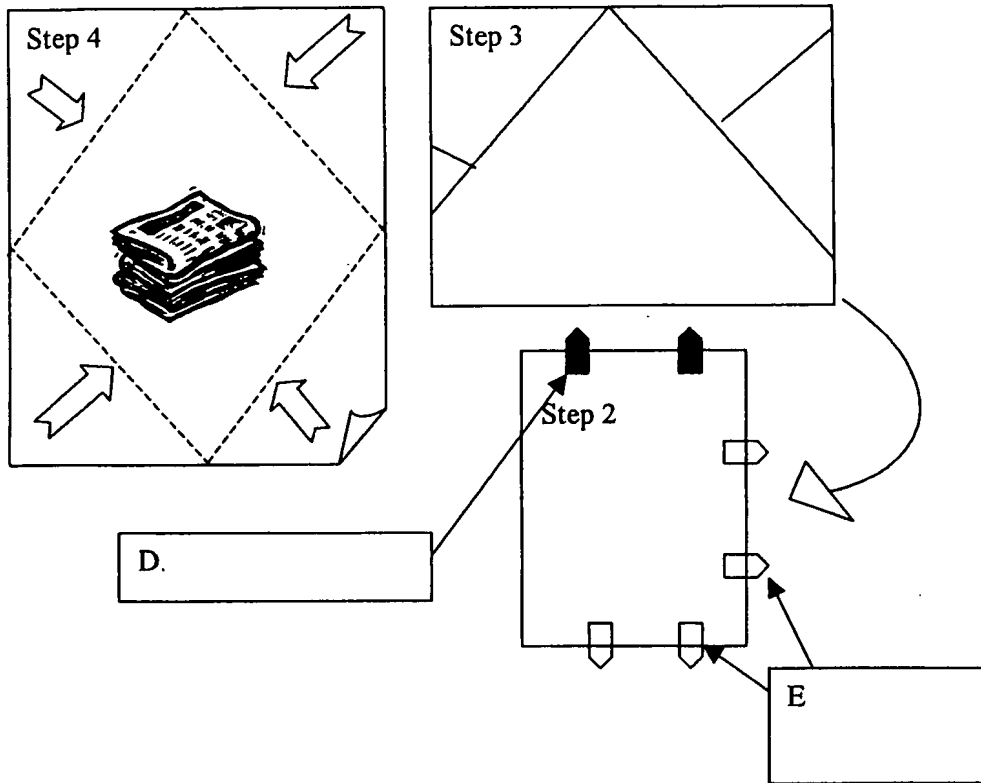


Figure 3 Position and contents of the Travelpack



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Figure 4 Re-folding and sealing soiled items.



Baby Travelpack

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a pack of items used for changing a baby's nappy or diaper.

Background

Baby change items (such as nappies, baby wipes, nappy sacks, changing mat, and nappy rash cream) are generally sold separately, in large multi-packs and using them in a confined space is cumbersome. Parents need to take separate items when travelling away from home. Some may have run out or may easily be forgotten. Some items, such as wipes and cream, cannot be carried separately from the multi-pack without some other form of storage. When changing a baby away from home, space is often confined and it is often difficult to find a suitably clean surface. After changing the baby, disposal of the soiled product may present a new problem. These problems were partially solved by US5582605 but that invention has three drawbacks:

- It requires manufacturing of specially adapted nappies (diapers) and accessories
- It cannot be opened or unwrapped while holding the baby, as it requires both hands
- The nappy in the pack may become dirty or torn as it is also the outer packaging for the product

Summary of the present invention

The present invention comprises a single pack that contains all the items necessary for changing a baby. It is packed in a way that unpacking provides a clean surface in the form of a changing mat. The pack is folded in a way that can be unrolled with one hand (the adult can hold the baby with the other) to provide a clean surface to place the baby on. The nappy (diaper) is wrapped in a changing mat, so it is protected from soiling or damage before use. When finished, soiled items can be re-packed and sealed in the original pack and disposed of safely.

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a pack of baby-care items comprising at least a baby changing mat and a disposable nappy, wherein the changing mat, in a folded state, forms a container for holding other items of the pack and wherein the changing mat is unfoldable to reveal said other items for use.

With the exception of the outer pack/changing mat, products available off the shelf can be used for manufacturing the invention. The outer pack/changing mat is also based on standard mats commercially available with the addition of sealing tabs. What provides the unique aspect of the invention is the method of folding and combining standard items.

Items included in the pack in addition to the nappy and the mat can comprise of, for example:

- Baby wipes packed in small multiples (e.g.3)
- Nappy rash cream packed in a small sachet

- A disposal bag, should soiled items not fit into original pack

These could be changed and included or excluded as seen fit by the manufacturer or supplier.

The typical folding method is widely accepted and used in packing sterile equipment (wipes, instruments, etc.) for medical use where ease of use and single handed operation while maintaining cleanliness is important. Other folding methods are possible. Key features of such a folding method are:

- Can be opened by one hand
- There is a side/surface that is always facing up (this maintains cleanliness)
- Contents of the pack cannot move and on unfolding these are always in the same position in relation to the pack and each other.

Here the most common method is described. This method of folding has a slight bias to right-handed people. Folding patterns for left handed bias and with no bias are also possible, as established in the industry, therefore not described here.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing:

Brief description of Drawings:

Figure 1 shows the packed form of the product

Figure 2 illustrates how opening and unfolding the pack will roll out the changing mat (A).

Figure 3 shows how individual items are placed in the pack.

Figure 4 shows how the pack can be sealed again after used.

Detailed Description of the Present Invention

Referring to the drawings, the Travepack comprises an outer bag (Figure 1). In this instance the pack is tightly folded and sealed by re-sealable tabs. The re-sealable tabs can be made from available materials, such as re-sealable glue, Velcro or similar. Other alternatives could be a single sealing strap or any re-sealable mechanism.

The pack unfolds as indicated in (Figure 2). This means that it can be opened and unfolded using one hand. Often parents only have one hand available, as they need to hold the baby in the other. The outer layer unfolds to become the changing mat. It is similar to changing mats widely available and would not require any changes other than adding the sealing tabs. The waterproof inner layer is facing outwards when the pack is rolled out. The other, padded side is the one, which will remain facing up and therefore not come into contact with the surface the baby is changed on. This ensures a hygienic mat for placing the baby on. (A.) This is a widely used folding method used in medical packaging.

When the pack is tightly sealed contents cannot move, so when unfolding, these will be in the same position, away from the centre, on a clean surface, as indicated in Figures 2 and 3. It is important to have the contents off centre, as this makes it easier putting the baby down in the centre of the mat. The order and the exact position of the items are flexible, but it is recommended that the nappy (B) is placed at the bottom and other items (C) are placed on top of it. The reason for this is that this provides some protection for the nappy until it is needed, usually after the baby wipes and other items have been used.

The folds (illustrated in dotted lines on Figures 2 and 3) allow the contents to be placed centrally but leaving space for the baby. The pack contains accessories for changing a baby, for example disposable nappy/diaper (B), and other items (C) in this instance a small sealed pack containing 3 moist baby wipes (a small squeezable bag of nappy rash cream and a folded, nappy sack. The additional bag or container, such as a nappy sack is advised because the pack is only designed to seal in the original items after use. Often, when changing a baby there are other items that need to be disposed of or sealed and a small plastic bag may be necessary. Optionally individual items (e.g. mat or nappy sack) may be fragranced. It is a feature that parents find useful when changing baby in an environment not designed for nappy changing.

When finished changing the baby, soiled items are placed in the middle and folding steps are repeated in reverse order with the exception of Step 1, which is not necessary for re-sealing, (Figure 4). The re-sealable tabs (D) are in such a position that applying them again makes the pack sufficiently secure for disposal. Alternatively, for more secure repacking, additional tabs (E) can be applied or the pack can be placed into the plastic bag optionally included in the pack.

CLAIMS

1. A pack of baby-care items comprising at least a baby changing mat and a disposable nappy, wherein the changing mat, in a folded state, forms a container for holding other items of the pack and wherein the changing mat is unfoldable to reveal said other items for use.
2. A pack according to claim 1, wherein the folds of the changing mat are arranged such that the pack is unfoldable using only one hand.
3. A pack according to claim 1 and 2 where the nappy is protected from soiling and damage prior to use by outer packaging such as the changing mat.
4. A pack according to claim 1 and 2 where the nappy and other items are placed off centre and secured from moving to allow a clean space for placing the baby
5. A rectangular folding pattern for folding mats containing baby care items, according to claim 2, 3 and 4.
6. A square folding pattern for folding mats containing baby care items, according to claim 2, 3 and 4.
7. A pack according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the changing mat is re-foldable to form a container for disposing of said other items after use.
8. A pack according to claim 4, wherein the folds of the changing mat are arranged such that the pack is re-foldable using only one hand.



Application No: GB0228413.1

Examiner: Mrs Stephanie Parry

Claims searched: 1 to 7

Date of search: 11 May 2004

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular reference
X	1 to 8	WO 97/45333 A1 (KIMBERLY-CLARK) Figs, page 6 lines 26-28, page 14 lines 4-7, page 20 lines 24-35, page 23 line 32 to page 24 line 2
X	1 to 4	US 4566130 A (COATES) Figs, col 1 line 59 to col 2 line 27
X	1 to 4	US 4886150 A (FITZSIMMONS) Figs, col 1 lines 23-43
X	1 to 4	DE 020010626 U1 (ROBA) Figs, see WPI Abstract Accession No 2001-072514/09
A	-	US 4702378 A (FINKEL) Figs, col 2 lines 7-39

Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^W :

A4G; A5R

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁰⁷

A45C; A47D; A61F

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO